

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MPO

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

April 23, 2014

Members:

Chester:	Edmund Meehan *
Clinton:	Willie Fritz
Cromwell:	Jonathan Sistare
Deep River:	Richard Smith
Durham:	Laura Francis *
East Haddam:	Mark Walter *
East Hampton:	Michael Maniscalco *
Essex:	Norm Needleman
Haddam:	Melissa Schlag *
Killingworth:	Cathy Iino *
Lyme:	Ralph Eno
Middlefield:	Jon Brayshaw *
Middletown:	Daniel Drew
Old Lyme:	Bonnie Reemsnyder
Old Saybrook:	Carl Fortuna *
Portland:	Susan Bransfield *
Westbrook:	Noel Bishop *
Middlesex Chamber of Commerce:	Jeff Pugliese *
CT Dept. of Transportation:	Edgar Wynkoop *
Estuary Transit District:	Joe Comerford
Middletown Area Transit:	Andrew Chiaravallo *

Others Present:

Deanna Rhodes, Portland Town Planner
John Guskowski

* Members Present

Staff Present:

Jean Davies
Judy Snyder
Rob Haramut
Torrance Downes
Janice Ehle-Meyer
Erin Bodan

MPO AGENDA:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cathy Iino called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. at the offices of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments in Essex.

2. APROVAL OF MARCH 27TH MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion of Noel Bishop, seconded by Ed Meehan, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2014 meeting.

3. STIP AMENDMENTS

- **2012-2015 TIP AMENDMENT #23, REPLACE BRIDGE ON RT 79 IN KILLINGWORTH OVER HAMMONASSET BROOK, PROJECT #0069-0073 AND REHAB BRIDGE ON RT 81 IN KILLINGWORTH OVER UN-NAMED BROOK, PROJECT #0069-0078**

Upon motion of Susan Bransfield, seconded by Carl Fortuna, it was unanimously voted to approve the 2012-2015 tip amendment #23, replace bridge on RT 79 in Killingworth over Hammonasset Brook, project #0069-0073 and rehab bridge on RT 81 in Killingworth over unnamed brook, project #0069-0078.

4. TRANSIT UPDATE

Laura Francis said that the Dial-A-Ride service is in the Durham budget.

Cathy Iino stated that the Clinton/Killingworth meeting regarding the proposed bus route was well attended.

5. UPWP – APPROVAL

Jean Davies asked if there were any additions or changes to the UPWP. There were none.

Ms. Davies explained the process for adopting the UPWP. First, the RiverCOG approves the plan, it is then sent to the FHWA and CDOT for review and comments. After the review is completed the RiverCOG will vote to approve the plan. The approval of the plan is expected at the June meeting.

Upon motion of Noel Bishop, seconded by Carl Fortuna, it was unanimously voted to approve the UPWP as presented.

Laura Francis asked who deploys the traffic counters. Robert Haramut said that the RiverCOG will set up and monitor the counters and the data. At this time there are eight counters available for use. The data reflects the number of vehicles, the time and the speed. These counters do not illuminate the speed the driver is traveling. Jean Davies said that she and Mr. Haramut are on the Route 66 Safety Committee and that monies may be available for the purchase of the larger speed indicator signs in the future.

6. MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Robert Haramut explained that the municipal grant program is a state matching grant program for elderly and disabled persons for demand responsive transportation. This money, five million dollars annually, has been appropriated since 2006. Each town gets a share based on the population and land area. All of the 17 RiverCOG towns applied and those requests were sent to CDOT for review. See Attachment #A for a summary of the municipal grant program, the 5310 program funding, and the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program.

7. 5310 PROGRAM FUNDING

Robert Haramut stated that the 5310 program funding is for municipalities and non-profit organizations to apply for grants to purchase handicapped and lift-equipped vehicles for elderly and disabled citizens. He said that May 16th is the return deadline for the applications. The applications will be reviewed and prioritized for the next meeting.

8. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM STATUS

Three LOTCIP test projects were received by the RiverCOG and sent to CDOT for review. Carl Fortuna mentioned that Old Saybrook had submitted a project and received a response from CDOT within two weeks. Edgar Wynkoop said that CDOT is trying to answer requests quickly.

9. PROJECT UPDATE

Jean Davies stated that the enhancement projects and the Route 1 corridor study are moving along. The Valley Railroad RFQ has been posted and was sent out. She said that an aggressive

schedule is in place to hire a consultant before June. This way some of the money in the PL funding surplus can be used. Ms. Davies has been in contact with CDOT and if we can bill before June 30th we can use some of that funding. The deadline for the return of the RFQ is May 8th, with the committee meeting on May 13th to review the applications.

At the May 1st meeting the staff will combine all the data that has been collected for the Regional Transportation Plan. The data will be printed out and organized so that it can start to be allocated to different categories and that all sections are easily available for staff to gain access to it and to begin writing. Ms. Davies stated that outreach programs for different communities will be investigated. Also cluster outreach workshops for transportation planning, freight, rail options, employment, journey to work and possible other issues can be put together to form cluster groups (attachment #B).

10. OTHER BUSINESS

No items at this time

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder
Recording Secretary